the consumption data collected using 30-day recall period (also known as reference period) for all the items. The other distribution is obtained from the consumer expenditure data collected using 365-day recall period for five infrequently purchased non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses and 30-day recall period for the remaining items. These two consumption distributions have been termed as Uniform Recall Period (URP) consumption distribution and Mixed Recall Period (MRP) consumption distribution respectively. The Planning Commission, using the Expert Group methodology has estimated poverty in 2004-05 using both the distributions.

The URP-consumption distribution data of the 61st Round yields a poverty ratio of 27.5 percent in 2004-05. The corresponding figure obtained from the MRP-consumption distribution data of the 61st Round is 21.8 percent.

The poverty estimate in 2004-05 based on URP consumption distribution (27.5 percent) is comparable with the poverty estimates of 1993-94, which was 36 percent and the poverty estimate in 2004-05 based on MRP consumption distribution (21.8 percent) is roughly (but not strictly) comparable with the poverty estimates of 1999-2000, which was 26.1 percent. Since both the URP and MRP consumption distribution data have been treated to the Expert Group methodology to estimate poverty, both the estimates are technically correct.

(b) The annual average rate of reduction of poverty is about 0.8 percentage point for both the 1980s (1983 to 1993-94) and the last eleven years (1993-94 to 2004-05) based on URP consumption distribution.

(c) The percentage of poor based on MRP consumption distribution (21.8%) is made in order to make a comparable assessment of poverty of 2004-05 with that of 1999-2000.

Difference between tariff rates of courier services

†*609. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge difference between the tariff rates of courier services of the private sector and public sector;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government have formulated any plan to bring down this difference to a competitive level; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Since private couriers in India are working in an unregulated environment, the full details of their tariff, rates etc. are not available with the Department of Posts.

(c) and (d) Since the private couriers are functioning in an unregulated environment, there is no legislative basis for intervention by Government in this regard.

Gap between demand and supply of coal

*610. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal in different parts of the country by all coal companies as on date;

(b) the present demand of coal in the country, State-wise, particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to fill up the gap between the demand and supply of coal products in the country particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The total production of coal in different parts/states of the country by all coal companies during the year 2006-07 (provisional) is given below: